Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) The search device according to claim 9, wherein, if the first element is the root of the first partial structure the structure search part does not determine an ancestor-descendant relationship between the first element and the mount point based on the second structural information.

5-6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) The search method according to claim 10, wherein, if the first element is the root of the first partial structure, an ancestor-descendant relationship between the first element and the mount point based on the second structural information is not determined.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) A search device for determining an ancestor-descendant relationship between a first element and a second element of a structured document, comprising:

an information retaining part that retains:

first structural information showing a hierarchical relationship between partial structures, the partial structures obtained by decomposing the structured document in accordance with a setting; and

second structural information showing, for each of the partial structures, a hierarchical relationship between elements in that partial structure, each ancestor partial structure containing at least one element that is also a root of a child partial structure; and

a structure search part that determines an ancestor-descendant relationship between the first elements and the second element of the structured document by:

determining whether the two elements are in a same partial structure;

if the two elements are in the same partial structure, determining the ancestor-descendant relationship between the two elements based on the second structural information;

if the two elements are not in the same partial structure, determining the ancestor-descendant relationship between a first partial structure containing the first element and a second partial structure containing the second element based on the first structural information;

determining if the first partial structure is an ancestor of the second partial structure based on the first structural information; and

if the first partial structure is an ancestor of the second partial structure, determining an ancestor-descendant relationship between the first element and a mount point based on the second structural information, the mount point contained within the first partial structure, the mount point located on a path from the first partial structure to the second partial structure, and the mount point a root of a child partial structure of the ancestor partial structure.

10. (Previously Presented) A search method for determining an ancestor-descendant relationship between a first element and a second element of a structured document, comprising:

retaining first structural information showing a hierarchical relationship between partial structures, the partial structures obtained by decomposing the structured document in accordance with a setting; and

retaining second structural information showing, for each of the partial structures, a hierarchical relationship between elements in that partial structure, each ancestor partial structure containing at least one element that is also a root of a child partial structure; and

determining an ancestor-descendant relationship between the first elements and the second element of the structured document by:

determining whether the two elements are in a same partial structure;

if the two elements are in the same partial structure, determining the ancestor-descendant relationship between the two elements based on the second structural information;

if the two elements are not in the same partial structure, determining the ancestor-descendant relationship between a first partial structure containing the first element and a second partial structure containing the second element based on the first structural information;

determining if the first partial structure is an ancestor of the second partial structure based on the first structural information; and

if the first partial structure is an ancestor of the second partial structure, determining an ancestor-descendant relationship between the first element and a mount point based on the first second information, the mount point contained within the first partial structure, the mount point located on a path from the first partial structure to the second partial structure, and the mount point a root of a child partial structure of the ancestor partial structure.